Proposal for New Industrial Price Index

5155. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to select a new industrial price index;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken i that regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) A scheme for conducting Working Class Family Income and Expenditure Survey with a view to update Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers has been included in the Fighth Five Year Plan.

Violation of labour standards

5156. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing in the Indian Express, dated the 11th April, 1995, under the caption "India violating labour standards; OECD"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As has been pointed out in the very same News item, the contents and conclusions of the OECD Report are biased and motivated. Though India has not ratified ILO Conventions regarding Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining, under Article 19 of the Constitution, right to form associations and unions is guaranteed. And, the Trade Unions Act is the enactment under which Trade unions are registered. Under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 Collective Bargaining is facilitated. The Government of India has ratified 36 ILO Conventions so far as compared to 11 in the case of the United States and 27 in the case of Canada. There has been an unfair tendency, particularly in recent years, to single cut some Asian countries, including India, and criticise them in the area of labour standards. Criticism of this nature is particularly motivated and is made without a fair and correct appreciation of Indian conditions. India is unequivocally committed to strengthening fundamental labour standards but social and economic progress will also play a part in bringing about increasing upgradation of labour standards.

Visit of German Minister for Labour and Social Welfare

5157. SHRI KRISHAN LAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the German Minister for labour and social welfare on a visit to the capital recently stated that Germany will not buy Indian carpets manuactured by child labour of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) its likely effect on carpet industry of the country;

(d) whether the number of child labour engaged in the carpet industry of the country has come down; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The German Minister for Labour and Social Welfare after his visit to India recently is reported to have asked